



GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, December 12, 2024 - 6:00 pm

HYBRID MEETING

GAB Members Present: Cameren Cousins, Eric Hudson, Peter Berry, Mary Smith, Partha Krishnan

Guests Virtual: Jim Snyder-Grant, Kate Crosby

Town Staff Present: Lauren West

Mary calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm and reads the hybrid meeting statement. Attendees are advised that the meeting is being recorded.

Business

1. Resident Concerns

- None

2. GAB Updates

Gas-Powered Leaf Blower (GLB) Ban

- Eric Hudson provides an update on status of GLB Ban. The Select Board plans to host another public meeting to allow comment on the next version of the ban. The meeting will be advertised as normal and will be included on the Select Board agenda.
- A date has not been set for the meeting but it will likely be at the end of January or early February.
- No next steps for GAB right now. GAB will be able to review the new document after the next Select Board meeting.
- Green Acton has been discussing the topic.

Presentation on Town Water Operations

- Mary recalls a presentation hosted during a Select Board meeting last year that covered Stormwater Management in town. She will look into who gave the presentation to see if we could get them to speak with the GAB.

3. Sustainability Updates

Nature-Based Solutions

- Lauren will do an updated I-tree analysis when she has done the 2023 Greenhouse Gas Inventory report. She will explore other methods for carbon sequestration accounting as well.

DPW Building Committee Public Meeting

- Dean Charter messaged the GAB inviting members to a public meeting about the new DPW building. He mentioned there have been concerns from the public about costs related to the Fossil Fuel Free bylaw and installing infrastructure for electric vehicles.
- Mary suggests asking designers for a long-term savings analysis associated with using systems like geothermal heat pumps.
- Jim notes the Finance Committee has expressed their opposition to the current project due to its high cost. Regardless, the Building Committee and Town Staff have shown no interest in requesting a waiver to install natural gas.
- Kate mentions the Boardwalk campus is operating below the projected energy use intensity target, proving to be very efficient. She recommends looking at the payback periods. Operational costs have come in lower than anticipated. Incentives and rebates are available.
- Erik Larson is on the committee for the DPW building.
- The Select Board intends to have a capital override at the March election and Town Meeting (similar to last year's override).
 - There would be no immediate impact on the tax bill, but authorizes use of funds when needed (likely near 2027).

Greening the Red House

- The Town received additional funds from MAPC to add more elements to the Red House project. Original funds received went towards landscaping work, but now the Town can purchase accessible picnic tables, a mini climate library, and more!
- Items will be installed in the spring and a launch event will be planned for the summer.
- The Town applied for CPC funds to cover elements not funded by the grant including the accessible patio.
- Electrification of the Red House itself is planned for the next few years.

4. Sustainability Policy

- Jim sent over an updated version of the policy. Very little has changed. The GAB reviews slight wording adjustments.
- The final draft will go back to the Select Board to be voted on.

5. Approve Minutes: August & September, 2024

- Partha makes a motion to accept the minutes, Eric Hudson seconds the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion passes.

Cameren makes a motion to close the meeting at 6:44. Partha seconds the motion. By a unanimous roll call vote; meeting adjourned.